

## **Backgrounder**

### **Agreements between Cheslatta Carrier Nation and Province of British Columbia**

On March 28, 2019, Cheslatta Carrier Nation and the provincial government signed Settlement and Reconciliation agreements to address the historic impacts of the Kenney Dam and Nechako Reservoir on the Cheslatta people.

#### **Settlement Agreement**

The Settlement Agreement provides payments to Cheslatta over a ten-year period and a commitment from the Province to future land transfers and tenures. In return, the agreement constitutes a full and final settlement of Cheslatta claims against B.C. related to impacts of the Nechako Reservoir on their rights and title interests.

The payments, land transfers and tenures will provide a base for future economic, social and cultural purposes to support Cheslatta Carrier Nation's healing journey.

Cheslatta has requested that details of the Settlement Agreement remain confidential for one year to protect ongoing negotiations with other parties.

#### **Land transfers and tenures under the Settlement Agreement**

The Settlement Agreement does not contain commitments to transfer or tenure specific parcels of Crown land. Cheslatta will identify lands for consideration, which will then be subject to detailed analysis and extensive engagement with neighbouring First Nations and stakeholders before any decisions are made by the Province.

The Province will consider the full range of public interests, including public access to existing recreation opportunities and access to lands beyond the lands proposed by Cheslatta, both of which will be maintained.

Land transfers and tenures acquired by Cheslatta will be subject to provincial and local government laws, including applicable zoning, land use, land development and property tax laws.

A map of 'lands under discussion', shared publicly in 2018, highlighted areas where Cheslatta may identify lands for transfer and tenure, but it is not part of the Settlement Agreement. The process for land selection – which includes identification of specific parcels, consultation with neighbouring First Nations and stakeholders, approval of specific parcels, survey and transfer of lands – is expected to take several years at minimum.

## **Interim Reconciliation Agreement**

The Interim Reconciliation Agreement is for a 10-year term and contains a number of provisions:

- Collaborative management in protected areas, and fish and wildlife with Cheslatta's traditional territory, along with funding of \$200,000 per year for jointly agreed projects.
- Funding of \$200,000 per year for jointly agreed watershed and heritage restoration projects.
- A commitment for the parties to work together to support Cheslatta's cultural rejuvenation and language revitalization.
- Specific forestry opportunities where feasible, such as licences for harvesting wood within the Nechako Reservoir.
- A commitment to discuss opportunities for further reconciliation including focusing on mutually agreed process and priorities.

A copy of the Interim Reconciliation Agreement is available [here](#).

Please contact Colleen Gellein at [colleen.gellein@gov.bc.ca](mailto:colleen.gellein@gov.bc.ca) if you have any questions.

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